

cleaning are known and that it makes no difference whether the method is performed in a cleanroom or a kitchen. This is an incorrect reading of the invention because the environment is relevant. In fact, it is quite relevant that the environment is a Class 10 cleanroom versus a Class 100 cleanroom and this represents a factor of 10 difference in the cleanliness of the room. The subject invention recognizes that nonwoven fabrics were conventionally deemed too "dirty" for Class 10 applications due to the relative large amount of particles that they generate.

However, it has been determined that by using the evaluation methods in the subject specification that these fabrics are indeed suitable for Class 10 applications. What has been found in the subject invention is that the number of particles generated by a fabric is not the best determinant for rating performance in a cleanroom environment, but rather the ability of the fabric to wipe a surface clean. That is, the important factor is not the number of particles that come from the fabric, but the number of particles that are left on a surface after wiping. This solution to the problem is significant in that nonwoven fabrics are significantly less expensive than the knitted, sealed fabric that had previously been deemed as a requirement in Class 10 applications.

Moreover, Applicant emphasizes that the Examiner's continued reliance on the nonwoven fabric and the act of wiping being known is misplaced. It is well accepted that that a new use for an "old" product and using process steps that are "old" can nevertheless be patentable. See, for example, Ex Parte Muller 81 USPQ 261 (Pat. Off. Bd. App. 1947).

For these reasons, Applicant believes that the subject claims are not obvious in view of the Admission and the cited references. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

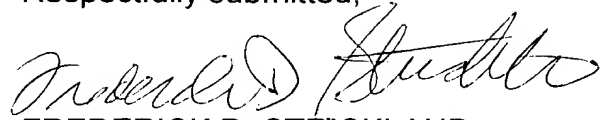
CONCLUSION

It is believed that the foregoing is a complete response to the subject Office Action. Applicants believe that all rejections have been overcome and that the instant claims are now in condition for allowance. If any matters remain for resolution, please contact the undersigned.

Application No.: 09/467,168
Docket No.: SS-2945

Page 3

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frederick D. Strickland".

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